



2016 Laser Gorge Blowout

July 20, 2016

Cascade Locks, Oregon

Organizing Authority: Columbia Gorge Racing Association

NOTICE OF RACE

1. RULES

- 1.1. The race will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing, the prescriptions of US Sailing, the rules of the International Laser Class Association (ILCA) and this Notice of Race, except as any of these are changed by the Sailing Instructions or any appendices to the Sailing Instructions.
- 1.2. Racing Rule 40 is changed as follows: Competitors shall wear personal flotation devices, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal flotation devices (code flag Y need not be displayed).

2. ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY

- 2.1. The regatta is open to boats of the Laser class, including Standard, Radial, and 4.7 rigs.
- 2.2. Due to safety considerations, entry is by application only and limited to 30 competitors.
- 2.3. Eligible competitors may enter by completing the online registration form and fee payment found on the Columbia Gorge Racing Association website www.cgra.org by July 20, 2016.
- 2.4. Competitors will be required to agree to a waiver of liability as a condition of eligibility. This waiver may be completed either during online registration or at the event check-in.

3. CLASSIFICATION

- 3.1. This event is open to sailors of all classifications as described in ISAF Regulation 22, Sailor Classification Code.

4. FEES

- 4.1. The entry fee is \$45 for entries completed with payment on or before June 20, 2016.
- 4.2. An entry fee of \$60 will be charged for entries completed or paid after June 20, 2016.
- 4.3. Entries will not be accepted after 9 am on July 20, 2016.
- 4.4. CGRA Members (Intermediate or Pro) are eligible for a discount of \$5.00.

5. SCHEDULE

Wednesday, July 20	8:00-10:00 am	Check-in, Registration, & car shuttle
	10:00 am	Competitors Meeting
	11:00 am	Race Warning
	5:00 pm	Refreshments & Awards in Cascade Locks

6. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 6.1. The Sailing Instructions will be communicated verbally at the Competitor's Meeting on Wednesday, July 20.

7. VENUE & COURSE

- 7.1. The race will start off the beach at the Cascade Locks Marine Park and finish under the bridge in Hood River, 18 miles up the Columbia River (see Attachment A, Course Diagram).
- 7.2. The race is divided into 2 legs with a mid-race rest stop at Viento Park (approx. 20 min.). Boats must sail through the mid-race finish line off the beach at Viento to be scored.
- 7.3. The first leg finish line shall be the second leg start line.

8. SCORING

- 8.1. Finishing times for each competitor will be recorded at the end of the first and second legs of the race, then added together. The competitor with the lowest combined finishing time wins.

9. SUPPORT BOATS

- 9.1. Support and coach boats must register at the Race Office during the check-in period. During racing, support boats shall monitor the race committee VHF channel and remain more than 50 yards from the course area, except when asked to assist by the race committee.
- 9.2. Support and coach boats shall berth at the public dock in the Cascade Locks Marine Park Marina.

10. PRIZES

- 10.1. The winner shall have his or her name engraved on the coveted Laser Gorge Blowout Perpetual Trophy. Take-home prizes will be given to the top 3 finishers.
- 10.2. Additional prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the organizing authority.

11. SAFETY

- 11.1. Boats shall not impede the passage of commercial vessels and shall comply with the [U.S. Inland Navigation Rules Act of 1980](#). Boats that fail to comply promptly with signals from a committee boat to alter course, or that receive a 5-blast warning (5 short sounds) from a commercial vessel, will be subject to protest and possible disqualification.

12. RISK, DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY, & PERSONAL CONDUCT

- 12.1. Competitors participate in the regatta at their own risk. See Rule 4 (Decision to Race). The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.
- 12.2. Competitors will accept full responsibility for all their actions during any activity related to this event. This includes on-shore activities before, during, and after the regatta.

13. INSURANCE

- 13.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$500,000 per event or the equivalent. Competitors shall be prepared to supply proof of insurance on request.

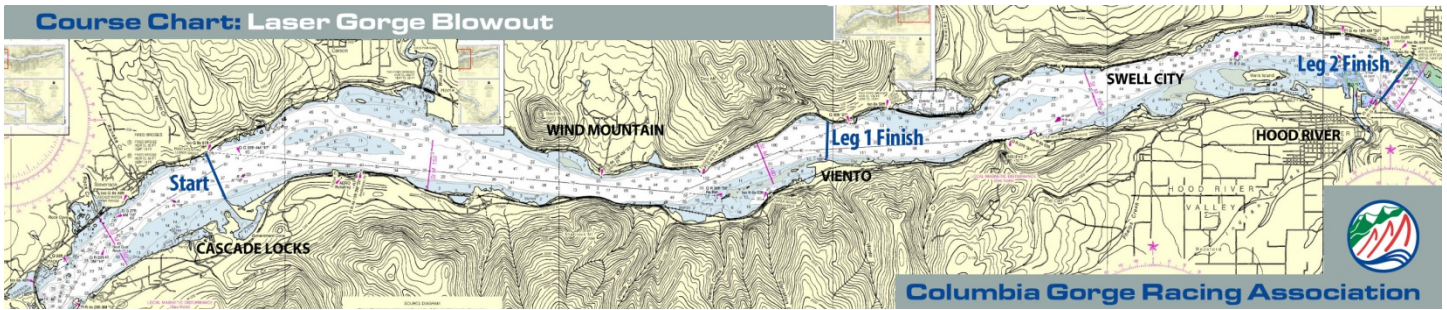
14. RIGHT TO USE NAME & LIKENESS

- 14.1. By participating in this event, all competitors automatically grant the organizers and sponsors the right to make, use and show, at any time and at their discretion, any photographs or videos of him or her produced during the period of the event without compensation.

15. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 15.1. Additional useful information regarding accommodations, travel, boat charters and area recreation is available online at www.cgra.org.
- 15.2. For more information, please contact Blowout Chairman Bill Symes at bill@cgra.org.

Attachment A: Course Diagram



Race Description

by Kerry Poe, Laser Blowout Founder

The Laser Gorge Blowout is 20 miles of downwind white knuckle sailing through the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. The race starts at Cascade Locks and finishes at Hood River. Swimming ability is mandatory! The race is a downwind start and will typically have 14-20 knot winds and flat water. The waves and wind begin to increase over the next 7 miles as you approach Wind Mountain. At Wind Mountain the river narrows and turns, creating some nice rollers to create havoc on Laser sailors. Between Wind Mountain and Viento State Park the river is surrounded by 2,000-foot high cliffs. The finish of the first leg of the race is at Viento State Park, a popular boardsailing and kite-boarding venue. The park has a beach protected from the wind where the sailors can load up on energy food and check their sanity before starting the most demanding part of the race. The sane Laser sailors will have the opportunity to pull out of the race at this point.

In the second half of the race, sailors will see the wind increasing and the waves growing larger as they approach the most demanding part of the river, SWELL CITY! Yes, there is a reason that it is called Swell City. The Laser sailor won't only be worrying about how to keep the bow from crashing into the back of the next swell, but will also have to try and avoid approximately 200 windsurfers wave jumping over him. Wind speeds can range from 25-40 knots, and I won't attempt to judge the wave heights. A short distance past Swell City is another popular board site called the Fish Hatchery for the board sailors not as inclined to take on the big swells. Next comes the welcome relief of dying wind (20-30 knots) as the survivors sail past the Hood River event site to finish under the Hood River Bridge. After the race, sailors can limp to one of the many local brewpubs for some well deserved refreshments.